



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: April 26, 2011

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: **Veto of County Board File INF 11-169/11-19(a)(a) on O'Donnell Park**

I am vetoing County Board File INF 11-169/11-19(a)(a) pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on April 21, 2011 to spend funds on decorative additions to the O'Donnell Park parking garage.

Over the last few months, I clearly and consistently opposed any nonessential spending on O'Donnell Park because in the current fiscal environment, no savings in County government are too small to avoid considering.

Despite a cost of \$1.2 million, the glass and aluminum panels are cosmetic. The base bid will ensure the structure is just as safe. Because moving forward with the base version even at this date will keep residents who park in the structure just as safe and save taxpayers significantly compared to the alternate, I am vetoing this resolution.

My veto is consistent with my concern that spending be kept to a minimum on the garage while we explore the best possible ways to use a valuable piece of County land to create jobs, grow the economy, preserve parking and improve access to the Lakefront.

I look forward to working with the board on studying the long-term options for O'Donnell Park, and support the board's creation of the Long Range Lakefront Planning Committee, and similar efforts that help ensure maximum value of taxpayer dollars.

Chris Abele, County Executive

